## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2002

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned about the resurgence of anti-Semitism both in Europe and in the Arab media.

As a democratic nation based on the freedom of religion for all people, it is imperative that the United States condemn anti-Semitic actions and rhetoric wherever they may be found.

In recent weeks, Jews in Europe have faced increased harassment unlike anything experienced there in the past six decades. What follows is a brief detailing of a few of the most troublesome events that have been directed toward Jewish communities throughout Western Europe:

France: From November 9, 2000, through November 20, 2001, there were over 330 anti-Semitic acts in Paris alone. In the past two months, Jewish schools, shops and synagogues throughout France have been shot at, set after and bombed.

Germany: Germany has experienced an escalation in violence that has been directed toward Jewish sites and individuals wearing Jewish attire.

Belgium: On March 3, 2002, molotov cocktails were thrown at a synagogue in Brussels.

In addition, we are concerned about the vitriolic, hateful and anti-Semitic rhetoric that has been circulating throughout much of the Arab media. That many of these statements originated in the state controlled media of presumed allies is all the more troubling. What follows are a few of the troubling statements found in the Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Palestinian media.

Saudi Arabian media: On March 10, 2002, the Saudi government daily <u>Al-Riyadh</u> included statements that detailed the Jewish use of non-Jewish bloods in Purim pastries as a "well-established fact, historically and legally, all throughout history." Other articles in the Saudi press have implicated Jews in the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Egyptian media: An article in the Egyptian government daily <u>Al-Ahram</u> written by Egyptian journalist Fahmi Huweide stated that: "I cannot hide my happiness about the martydom operation that took place in Jerusalem(on 8/9/01)." Other articles in Egyptian government dailies

praised Hitler's actions in the Holocaust and claimed that the CIA and Israeli Mossad have infected Libyan children with AIDS.

Palestinian media: Articles in the Palestinian Authority daily <u>Al-Havat Al-Jadida</u> and television programs operated by the Palestinian media have referred to the "contemptible Jews" and have stated that Palestinians should "have no mercy on the Jews, no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them."

Like you, we desire a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Anti-Semitic actions and caricatures only fan the flames of hatred making a political resolution of the differences and a future peaceful relationship between Israelis and Palestinians that much more difficult. We urge you and your Administration to make every effort possible to raise, at the highest level, our concerns about anti-Semitic acts in Europe and anti-Semitic portrayals in the Arab media.

Arab media. Sincerely, NELSON

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